

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A communications method, comprising:
establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and
during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient:

generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;
storing the video instant message at the instant messaging host -in a location that is transparent to the sender;

~~providing the video instant message to the instant messaging host from the transparent location;~~ and

providing, to the instant messaging host, an indication that triggers sending of the video instant message to the recipient after generation of the video instant message is completed.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the sender.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising generating, during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient, a text

instant message to the recipient on behalf of the sender and providing, to the instant messaging host, the text instant message to the recipient.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of hardware associated with the recipient.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of software associated with the recipient.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 further comprising displaying a user interface according to the capabilities of the recipient.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising providing, to the instant messaging host, a request to establish video communication.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising establishing a generic signaling interface channel, a control channel, and a video channel to the recipient.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the control channel comprises a TCP/IP socket.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the video channel comprises a UDP channel.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 wherein the video channel comprises a TCP channel.

48. (Currently Amended) A communications method, comprising:
establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and
during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient:

receiving a video instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the recipient after the instant messaging host receives an indication that generation of the video instant message is completed;

storing the video instant message at the instant messaging host in a location that is transparent to the recipient;

accessing the video instant message from the instant messaging host transparent location; and

presenting the video instant message to the recipient.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the recipient.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 further comprising receiving, during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient, a text instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the sender and presenting the text instant message to the recipient.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 further comprising providing, to the instant messaging host, a request to establish video communication.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 further comprising establishing a generic signaling interface channel, a control channel, and a video channel to the sender.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the control channel comprises a TCP/IP socket.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the video channel comprises a UDP channel.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the video channel comprises a TCP channel.

56. (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and

during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient:

generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

storing the video instant message at the instant messaging host in a location that is transparent to the sender;

providing the video instant message to the instant messaging host from the transparent location; and

providing, to the instant messaging host, an indication that triggers sending of the video instant message to the recipient after generation of the video instant message is completed.

57. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 56 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the sender.

58. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 56 further comprising instructions for generating, during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient, a text instant message to the recipient on behalf of the sender and providing, to the instant messaging host, the text instant message to the recipient.

59. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 56 further comprising instructions for accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient.

60. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 59 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of hardware associated with the recipient.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 59 wherein accessing an indication of capabilities of the recipient comprises accessing an indication of software associated with the recipient.

62. (Previously Presented): The computer program of claim 59 further comprising instructions for displaying a user interface according to the capabilities of the recipient.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 56 further comprising instructions for providing, to the instant messaging host, a request to establish video communication.

64. (Currently Amended) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and

during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient:

receiving a video instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the recipient after the instant messaging host receives an indication that generation of the video instant message is completed;

storing the video instant message at the instant messaging host in a location that is transparent to the recipient;

accessing the video instant message from the instant messaging host transparent location; and

presenting the video instant message to the recipient.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 64 wherein storing the video instant message comprises storing the video instant message in a location that is immutable by the recipient.

66. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 64 further comprising instructions for receiving, during the instant messaging communications session between the sender and the recipient, a text instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the sender and presenting the text instant message to the recipient.

67. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 64 further comprising instructions for providing, to the instant messaging host, a request to establish video communication.

68. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

means for establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and

means for generating, during the instant messaging communications session, a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

means for storing, during the instant messaging communications session, the video instant message ~~at the instant messaging host in a location that is transparent to the sender~~;

means for providing, during the instant messaging communications session, the video instant message to the instant messaging host ~~from the transparent location~~; and

means for providing, to the instant messaging host during the instant messaging communications session, an indication that triggers sending of the video instant message to the recipient after generation of the video instant message is completed.

69. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

means for establishing an instant messaging communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging host; and

means for receiving, during the instant messaging communications session, a video instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the recipient after the instant messaging host receives an indication that generation of the video instant message is completed;

means for storing, during the instant messaging communications session, the video instant message ~~at the instant messaging host in a location that is transparent to the recipient~~;

means for accessing, during the instant messaging communications session, the video instant message from the ~~instant messaging host transparent location~~; and

means for presenting, during the instant messaging communications session, the video instant message to the recipient.

70. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein generating the video instant message on behalf of the sender comprises generating the video instant message with a client device comprising a processor, a controller and a storage medium.

71. (New) The method of claim 70, wherein the client device comprises a set-top box.

72. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein receiving a video instant message from the instant messaging host on behalf of the recipient comprises receiving the video instant message through a client device comprising a processor, a controller and a storage medium.

73. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein the client device comprises a set-top box.

74. (New) The system of claim 68, wherein the means for generating the video instant message comprises a client device comprising a processor, a controller and a storage medium.

75. (New) The system of claim 74, wherein the client device comprises a set-top box.

76. (New) The system of claim 69, wherein the means for receiving the video instant message comprises a client device comprising a processor, a controller and a storage medium.

77. (New) The system of claim 74, wherein the client device comprises a set-top box.